## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 NEA-10 HEW-06 OIC-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 OES-05 SCCT-01 SAM-01 MMS-04

SAB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 DIWY-01

CU-04 STR-04 CIEP-02 /173 R

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PORG, PLO

SUBJECT: ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE: US POSITION ON GRANTING OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) OBSERVER STATUS

- 1. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND FOR USE BY POSTS IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES REGARDING THE UU POSITION ON THE DECISION OF THE ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE TO GRANT OBSERVER STATUS TO THE PLO. THE 60TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE MET IN GENEVA JUNE 4-25.
- 2. ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ITS STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE THE ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PLENARY SESSION ON JUNE 12 UNCLASSIFIED

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ADOPTED AN "UMBRELLA CLAUSE" AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLE OF

THE CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS REGULATING RIGHT OF ADMISSION TO SITTINGS OF THE CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE AMENDMENT "REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE CONFERENCE OR BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE" MAY BE ADMITTED TO SITTINGS OF THE CONFERENCE. THE PLENARY VOTE ON THIS WAS 266-14(US)-73. A TWO-PART WORKERS' AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN AND US WORKERS TO THE ABOVE QUOTED TEXT WHICH (A) WOULD HAVE DELETED THE REFERENCE TO THE OAU OR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES WAS

REJECTED BY A VOTE OF 35(US)-246-66 AND (B) ADDED THE PROVISO THAT THE BODY CONSIDERING THE INVITATION MUST BE ASSURED THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN QUESTION FULLY RECOGNIZES THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO AND ITS CONSTITUTION AND THE RIGHT OF ALL MEMBER STATES TO CONTINUE IN EXIST - ENCE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVED A VOTE OF 74 IN FAVOR, NONE AGAINST, WITH 305 ABSTENTIONS. SINCE THIS RESULT FELL SHORT OF THE NECESSARY QUORUM, THE AMENDMENT WAS NOT ADOPTED.

- 3. IN ADDITION TO THE "UMBRELLA CLAUSE" AMENDMENT QUOTED ABOVE, THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ADOPTED A NUMBER OF CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO ITS STANDING ORDERS SPECIFYING THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE MAY, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PRESIDENT, ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE DURING DISCUSSION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT AND FURTHER SPECIFYING THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES AS THE CONFERENCE MAY INVITE TO BE REPRESENTED IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEES MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS. FURTHER AMENDMENTS COVERED THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION OF SUCH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS INVITED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES.
- 4. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE VOTING ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS, THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATE OF MOROCCO PROPOSED THAT THE CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY INVITE THE PLO. PRIOR TO THE ENTRY OF THE PLO DELEGATION INTO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE HALL, THE US WORKERS' DELEGATE ANNOUNCED THE INTENION OF HIS DELEGATION TO WITHDRAW FROM ANY FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE 60TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE AS WELL AS TO WITHDRAW THEIR CREDENTIALS. THE US GOVERNMENT DELEGATE DESCRIBED THE DECISION TO INVITE THE PLO AS ILL-CONSIDERED AND TRAGIC. HE REFERRED TO THE UNIQUELY TRIPARTITE NATURE OF ILO DELEGATIONS, A FORM SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO ASSURE THAT POLITICAL CONFLICTS OF GOVERNMENTS

WOULD NOT OBSCURE THE NEEDS OF LABOR. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE THREE GROUPS REPRESENTED ON THE DELEGATIONS HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND SUBVERTED BY THE INTRODUCTION, AGAINST THE WISHES OF MILLIONS OF AMERICAN AND OTHER WORKERS, OF AN ENTITY WHICH IS NEITHER A GOVERNMENT, NOR AN EMPLOYER, NOR A UNION. THE US GOVERNMENT DELEGATE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT AS AN EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH US WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' DELEGATIONS HIS DELEGATION WOULD ABSENT ITSELF FROM THE MEETING. THE US GOVERNMENT DELEGATION WOULD, HOWEVER, RETURN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE SO AS TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS IN THE ORGANIZATION.

- 5. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE US GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS' DELEGATIONS RETURNED TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE.
- 6. POSTS SHOULD CONFINE STATEMENTS TO STRAIGHTFORWARD RECITAL OF FACTS AND US GOVT VIEWS AS EXPRESSED AT THE CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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Subject: ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE: US POSITION ON GRANTING OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) OBSERVER STATUS TAGS: PORG, PFOR, US, XF, ILO, PLO To: ALL POSTS

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